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Letter dated 24 September 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a joint letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Libya, as Chair of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, and the Secretary-General of the League (see annex). The letter sets out the Arab position on the current consultations regarding developments in the grave situation in Syria.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex issued as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Fathalla**
Permanent Observer
of the League of Arab States to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 24 September 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We refer to our ongoing consultations with you regarding developments in the grave situation in Syria, and to the current consultations towards a Security Council resolution on the Syrian crisis and the means to implement the American-Russian agreement concerning the plan of action for Syrian chemical disarmament, which was agreed in Geneva on 14 September 2013. We should like to inform you that the Council of the League of Arab States met at the ministerial level on 23 September 2013 in New York. It discussed the dimensions of the Syrian crisis, its grave repercussions and the ongoing consultations on the subject. It decided as follows:

(i) To urge the Security Council to assume its responsibility by addressing the unfolding Syrian crisis and its repercussions in a comprehensive manner, not only by focusing on the effects of the Ghutah crime and Syrian chemical disarmament, but also by taking measures to impose a complete ceasefire on all Syrian territory; prohibiting the use of military aircraft, rockets and heavy weapons of all forms against civilians; establishing a mechanism to monitor the ceasefire under United Nations supervision; embarking on the process towards a political solution to the crisis; and building momentum for a second Geneva conference;

(ii) To stress that the Security Council should adopt a specific mechanism for the provision of humanitarian assistance, enabling international aid agencies to work freely and fulfil their functions without hindrance in all affected regions of Syria;

(iii) To stress that the chemical weapons crime in Ghutah was a war crime not subject to statutory limitations, and that its perpetrators must therefore be held accountable and handed over to the international criminal justice system.

(*Signed*) Mohamed **Abdulaziz**
Current Chair of the Council of the League

(*Signed*) Nabil **Elaraby**
Secretary-General of the League